COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DATE November 16, 1987

FILE NO. 087-14732-2599-051

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: OLIVER TAYLOR, CHIEF
DETECTIVE DIVISION

TO: SHERMAN BLOCK
SHERIFF

SUBJECT: NARCOTIC LAW VIOLATIONS/DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING/ DEPUTY INJURED (Lynwood Station Area)

V: CROOKSHANKS, Larry A. MW/29 Sergeant [redacted]
(Assigned to Narcotic Bureau)

L: [redacted] 156th Street
Compton

T: 1130 Hours, 11-13-87

S#1: BLOACH, Brian B. MB/25 (In Custody)

S#2: ESTES, Eddie MB/30 (In Custody)

S#3: LAND, Andre MB/29 (In Custody)

S#4: ROGERS, Navarn MB/18 (In Custody)

S#5: [redacted] (In Custody)

S#6: WASHINGTON, Jerome MB/25 (In Custody)

S#7: WILLIAMS, Frank A. MB/26 (In Custody)

S#8: WILLIAMS, Keith D. MB/24 (In Custody)

DEPUTIES INVOLVED

CLIFT, Javier A. MW/29 Deputy [redacted]

(Fired eight rounds of Department issued .38 caliber ammunition from his Department issued Smith & Wesson, Model 15, .38 caliber, revolver.)

SHERIFF ☐	CHIEF – FLD. OPS. – NORTH ☐	CHIEF DETECTIVES ☐	CAPT. HOMICIDE ☐
UNDERSHERIFF ☐	CHIEF – FLD. OPS. – WEST ☐	INSP. DETECTIVES ☐	CAPT. NARCOTICS ☐
ASSISTANT SHERIFF ☐	CHIEF – TECH. SERV. ☐	CAPT. DET. SERV. ☐	INFORMATION BUR. ☐
CHIEF – ADMIN. DIV. ☐	CHIEF – CIVIL DIV. ☐	CAPT. METRO ☐	☐
CHIEF – CUSTODY DIV. ☐	INSPECTOR – ☐	CAPT. COMM. CRIMES ☐	☐
CHIEF – FLD. OPS. – EAST ☐	CAPTAIN – ☐	CAPT. VICE ☐	☐

GJENDEM, Ernie A. MW/43 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired two rounds of Department issued .38 caliber ammunition from his personal Smith & Wesson, .357 caliber, Model 66, revolver.)

KUSCH, Rod A. MW/26 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired two rounds of Department issued .38 caliber ammunition from his personal Smith & Wesson, .357 caliber, Model 686, revolver.)

ORTEGA, Ernest M. MH/39 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired six rounds of Department issued .38 caliber ammunition from his personal Smith & Wesson, .357 caliber, Model 686, revolver.)

RHAMBO, Cecil W. MB/28 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired 18 rounds of Department approved 9mm ammunition from his Department authorized Smith & Wesson, 9mm, Model 59, auto-loader.)

ZAGURSKI, George E. MW/29 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired one round of Department issued "00" buckshot from a Department issued Ithaca, Model 37, shotgun.)

CROOKSHANKS, Larry A. MW/39 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired six rounds of Department approved 9mm ammunition from his Department authorized Smith & Wesson, 9mm, Model 59, auto-loader.)

MENDOZA, Ruben A. MH/33 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired three rounds of Department issued .38 caliber ammunition from his personal Smith & Wesson, .357 caliber, Model 66, revolver.)

Acting Captain Darrell Gordon, Homicide Bureau, advises:

The following information is fragmentary and has not been completely verified. It is based in part on hearsay and is intended for early informational use rather than being a formal investigative report.

Sergeant Crookshanks was shot in the left side during a raid on a suspected rock house.

Sergeant Crookshanks and his three-man narcotic crew were assisting a six-man Lynwood Station Burglary team with the surveillance of a suspected narcotic operation. The surveillance team observed several narcotic transactions take place from a car parked in the driveway at the location. They also saw several people make obvious narcotic buys and go inside the house. A decision was made to enter the house and arrest those involved in the narcotic trafficking before the narcotics were sold or the car was driven away.

The ten-man team was deployed to contain the house before the entry was attempted. When Deputy Rhambo entered the backyard at the east side of the location, he was confronted by three pit bull dogs. He moved back as the dogs charged and he fired six or seven rounds, but did not hit them. Simultaneously, Deputy Gjendem was walking toward the backyard in the confined area between a blockwall and

the west wall of the house. He was charged by another dog and was forced to shoot and kill it.

Deputies on the opposite side of the house heard those shots and believed that they were being fired upon from the interior of the house. Deputy Zagurski began yelling to "move back, get out of here." Deputy Rhambo, Deputy Mendoza, Deputy Ortega and Sergeant Crookshanks all began firing into the window at the southeast corner of the house. It is at this point that Sergeant Crookshanks felt a shot strike him in the left side and he went down. All the deputies had retreated when Deputy Rhambo saw that Sergeant Crookshanks was down. He then ran back and helped Crookshanks to cover. Deputy Kusch, Deputy Clift, and Deputy Zagurski fired into the window at the front of the house to provide cover for Sergeant Crookshanks.

Assistance was then requested by Deputy Clift while other deputies attempted to contain the scene until the arrival of a Special Enforcement Bureau Entry Team. Sergeant Crookshanks was transported to the hospital.

The Special Enforcement Bureau Entry Team arrived and deployed. They ordered the suspects out of the house and they complied. The suspects were arrested without further incident and subsequently booked on Narcotic Law Violations. None of the suspects complained of injury. The Entry Team then cleared the house using three "flash bang" grenades as diversion. No other suspects were found in the house.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and discovered a loaded Mac-10 machine pistol in a bedroom of the house. There was a large amount of ammunition for other caliber weapons found in the house, also. It did not appear as though the Mac-10 had been fired. There were no expended rounds inside the house. Three-thousand dollars was seized from a bedroom. Twenty-five gallons of suspected P.C.P. was seized from the vehicle parked in the driveway of the location. Narcotic Investigators estimated the potential street value of the seized P.C.P. at $1,500,000.00.

The deputies' weapons and the seized machine pistol will be submitted to the Firearms Section of the Criminalistics Laboratory for testing.

Sergeant Crookshanks sustained a gunshot wound to the left side. He was admitted into Martin Luther King Hospital, where his condition is listed as good. It is expected that he will be released from the hospital in the afternoon of Monday, November 16, 1987.

Sergeant Crookshanks and the deputies involved in the incident were wearing protective vests and Department raid jackets.

The Information Bureau was notified for an operational log entry and press release.

LR:GL:sak